

### **REMARKS**

Upon the entering of the current Amendment, claims 1, 3-11 and 22-24 will be pending in the application.

Regarding the outstanding Office Action, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Casey Shea Hagopian for the Examiner Interview conducted with Applicant's representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on April 2, 2008, at which time it was indicated by Examiner Hagopian that the independent claims as presently presented would appear to distinguish over the prior art of record.

It was suggested that submission of the current Amendment by Applicant may result in withdrawal of all outstanding prior-art rejections to the extent the claims reflect the content discussed in the Examiner Interview of April 2, 2008, which they do. Examiner Hagopian did not absolutely and bindingly commit to allow the claims, however, and reserved the right to review the case in greater detail, to discuss the matter with her supervisor, and to conduct an update search.

Accordingly, as a result of the mentioned Examiner Interview and the amendments submitted herewith, Applicant respectfully requests, with optimism, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections of record. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that all independent claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Totakura et al., taken separately or together with any other reference of record. Applicant accordingly submits that the current claims in the subject application patentably distinguish over, and are allowable over, the prior art of record.

Allowance of all presently pending claims is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, or for any other reason relating to the currently pending application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the below number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any needed fees to deposit account 50-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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